

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
July 2026
Bulletin Board



All programs begin at 11 a.m. unless otherwise stated

Sun., July 5	Service: <i>Democracy</i> , Rev. Diana Davies
Sun., July 12	Sharing Circle: <i>Happy Days</i>
Wed., July 15	UCOT Men's Group, 4 p.m.
Sun., July 19	Service: <i>What Is Religion Anyway?</i> Rev. Diana Davies
Tue., July 21	UCOT Women's Lunch, 12 p.m., Martyrs
Thu., July 23	UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., July 26	Sharing Circle: <i>Open Topic</i>

Right Now, It's Like This
Rev. Diana Davies

The people. Affirmation. Connection. Values.
Inspiration. Community.

At a recent meeting of UCOT Board and staff members, in response to the question "What do you love about the Unitarian Congregation of Taos?" these were just some of the answers.

All of us carry multiple responsibilities. And, on any given day, we may feel called to do crucial, life-saving work: the work of social justice, art, tending the Earth, caring for others, self-care, exercise, and rest. (Yes, finding time to rest can be a kind of work.) Faced with all this, participation in a spiritual community (or "church") may feel somewhat superfluous. But, while I believe that, for many people, "church" can be found in alternative spaces, I also believe that something like "church" is an essential part of every spiritually healthy life.

What I mean by "church" in this sense is a place that offers the very gifts that were noted above: affirmation, connection, inspiration, shared values, and community, along with several less "comfortable" qualities, including diverse perspectives that coexist, challenges to old ways of thinking, and incentives to grow and change. Many other deeply meaningful activities may offer some of these elements, but not all of them.

For many of us, the place that meets those criteria is the Unitarian Congregation of Taos. But we know that an organization only retains its life-affirming vibrancy if its members have regular opportunities to share their appreciation as well as their concerns, their dreams as well as their fears. It's for this reason that UCOT is launching a project where members of the congregation will be invited to meet in small groups ("cottage meetings") to share their hopes and dreams for this community. One of the goals of this initiative is to help the Board craft a budget that reflects the congregation's aspirations and its priorities. A budget is more than a dry, financial blueprint. It's a statement of what we love, what we envision becoming, together.

(Cont'd from previous column)

I hope that all members of this congregation will participate in this important process, because every voice matters. (See page 3 for how you can participate.)

Democracy
(through the Lives of UU Women)

Rev. Diana Davies

Sunday, July 5, 11 a.m.

Bent Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago, Taos

The right of every U.S. citizen to vote has not come without struggle, and that right is in great peril of being stolen from many of us. This Sunday, we honor our spiritual ancestors who lived their faith in the fight for voting rights and full civic participation. We'll focus on the stories of five Unitarian/Universalist/Unitarian Universalist women: Abigail Adams, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Phebe Ann Coffin Hanaford, Olympia Brown, and Margaret Moseley.



What Is Religion Anyway?

Rev. Diana Davies

Sunday, July 19, 11 a.m.

Bent Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago, Taos

On May 20 of this year, the Department of Defense quietly issued a memo in which 180 different faith traditions, including Unitarian Universalism, were removed from the DOD's list of officially recognized religions or belief systems. In personnel files and records, the faith of UU service members will only be recorded as "other." But why does this matter? What constitutes a religion, anyway? And does Unitarian Universalism qualify as one?

SHARING CIRCLES

Bent Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago, Taos

Happy Days

Sunday, July 12, 11 a.m.

In these troubling times, we need to think about better things. Thus, we would ask each person in the circle to tell us about a happy day in their lives. It does not have to be special day. Just a day that to them was a happy day. Hearing about happy days from other people is bound to make everyone happy.

Open Topic

Sunday, June 28, 11 a.m.

Come as you are. Say what you like. Share your thoughts or feelings as we pass the mic.

UUA Corner

It took courage for Unitarians to move away from tradition and claim a new structure – one that would sustain congregations whose life saving message of

worthiness, of possibility, of a shared spiritual journey

would authorize and invite all people of good will who would live their lives by a set of shared values, to dream the world anew.

How blessed are we to be the inheritors of such a richly courageous religious tradition?

Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt



Free Gentle Yoga Class Saturdays, 10 a.m. First Presbyterian

Every Saturday, Rev. Diana (a 200-hour Registered Yoga Teacher) will lead a gentle, meditative practice from 10-11 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church (215 Paseo del Pueblo Norte). All are welcome! The gentle, Kripalu-style yoga can be practiced on a mat or using a chair. Diana offers modifications for both options. All donations will go to the Taos Medical Debt Relief Project. Contact Rev. Diana for more information.

UCOT Men's Group

July 15, 4:00 p.m.

(Third Wednesday Monthly)

The UCOT Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, July 15, at 4 p.m. Contact [Chuck Fawns](#) for this month's location.

UCOT Women's Lunch

July 21, 12 noon

(Third Tuesday Monthly)

Martyrs Restaurant

RSVP [here](#)

Join us at Martyrs, in their separate meeting space at the rear of the property, to enjoy a meal and conversation with UCOT women members and their friends. Enjoy delicious food and the company of amazing women. RSVP by Monday, July 20, to [Mary Shaffer](#).

News from Amigos Bravos, one of our long-time Charitable Giving recipients

Amigos Bravos has been protecting over 250 miles of streams as Outstanding National Resource Waters. They are currently struggling to stop oil and gas wastewater from being discharged into waterways and crops. They are facing renewed pressure from extractive, ongoing threats to water quality and a rapidly shifting political landscape that puts decades of protections at risk. The SB1 Surface Water Permitting hearing is currently going on and runs until June 18th. Federal rollbacks have already stripped Clean Water Act protections from up to 95 percent of New Mexico's streams and 88 percent of its wetlands.



A Report from Our Caring Community

Patsy & Dennis Scott have moved to Santa Fe to share a home with their daughter and son-in-law. They are still struggling with various things (cat bites, no text or internet, etc.), but hopefully things will improve. In the meantime, since they can't receive text or emails, a card or a note would be most welcome. Let them know how you're doing, too. Ask Be for the latest directory with their new mailing info in it, and she'll gladly send you one.

LEADERSHIP

What do you think about the future of UCOT?

Sara Sautter



Appreciative Inquiry is a process used to help members plan for the future based on what it has done well in the past. Appreciative Inquiry focuses on organizational change and problem-solving through a congregation's strengths.

The Unitarian Congregation of Taos is hosting "cottage meetings" for voting members to help us define what we do best and how to do more of it.

Appreciative Inquiry is based on the idea that an organization grows best in the direction of the questions it asks. Instead of asking, "What are the problems and how do we fix them?" Appreciative Inquiry asks us, "What is working best and how do we do more of it?"

Our board and staff were trained on the Appreciative Inquiry model by Rev. Diana Davies at a meeting on May 9. Ninety-minute cottage meetings will be held in July and August for congregants to:

- **Discover: Appreciate what we do well.**
Congregants will tell stories about past successes and times when their membership at UCOT mattered most.
- **Dream: Envision a compelling future.**
Based on what we do well, participants will imagine what the organization might look like at its best.
- **Design: Brainstorm and co-construct the future.**
This phase focuses on designing strategies and processes that align with the Dream.

(Continued)

- **Deliver: Take action.**

We will plan to implement the strategies through our 2027-2028 budget.

We need your participation to help us grow in the direction of what we do best. New members, established members, and friends of the congregation are all needed.

[Please click here](#) to select the single date you will participate in a cottage meeting that works the best for you. Attendees are invited to bring a simple homemade or store-bought snack to share, perhaps one that reflects your own dietary needs: gluten free, vegan, nut-free, etc.

This is an exciting time of growth for UCOT! Please plan to attend so your voice can be heard.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

5	Linda Malm
6	Bob Aubrecht
21	Be Scott
28	Chuck Fawns
30	Dennis Scott

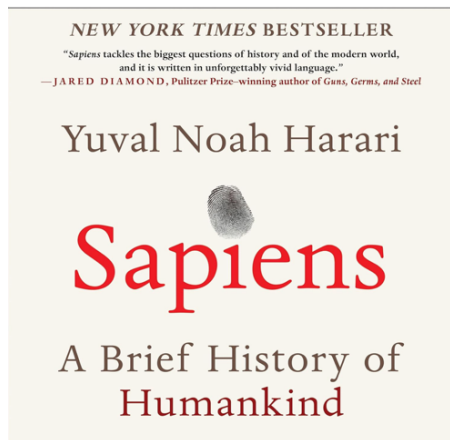
**For more News on
the UCOT Book Group
and a report on our
fifth-Sunday guest from
Amigos Local,
see the next page!**

(Continued next column)

UCOT Book Group
July 23, 10:30 a.m.,
HOME OF CATHERINE KELLY
(Fourth Thursday Monthly)

In July, we will be reading and discussing **Sapiens, A Brief History of Humankind**, by Yuval Noah Harari. Dr. Harari received a PhD in History from the University of Oxford and now lectures at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, specializing in World History.

Earth is 4.5 billion years old. In just a fraction of that time, one species among countless others has conquered it: us. What makes us brilliant? What makes us deadly? What makes us sapiens? In this bold and provocative book, Yuval Noah Harari explores who we are, how we got here and where we're going. **Sapiens** is the thrilling account of our history — from insignificant apes to rulers of the world.



NOTE: Different meeting location

We will meet in July at the home of Catherine Kelly at our usual time of 10:30 a.m., instead of at SOMOS. Catherine's home is located at 206 Lund St., B-3, Taos, NM 87571. Catherine will be serving lunch to us after the discussion of our book, and we are most appreciative of her gracious offer to do so. Thank you, Catherine. Please R.S.V.P. to Catherine at (615) 330-4763, if you will be attending.

Please join us for the conversation and a meal shared with old and new friends.

The UCOT Book Group is open to all readers and their friends. To view the entire **2026 Book List**, follow [this link](#).

From the 5th Sunday Service Committee
Sarah Reid

Our illuminating 5th Sunday Service in May, "Feeding Our Community," provided attendees with a wealth of information regarding Taos's network of food providers. Each of the five panel participants presented a fascinating look at their food operations; we plan to cover one presenter for each of the next five months. Here's a look at what Micah Roseberry had to say about the work of Amigos Locale.

- Their nonprofit, Agriculture, Implementation, Research & Education (AIRE), is ten years old.
- They provide 800 meals a day for school children, using locally grown, organic food. They are a "food-producing-machine."
- They support local farmers and ranchers (beef and bison) and are involved with 10 farms and 200 people.
- They've just acquired a refrigerated truck to allow them to expand service both north and south.
- They participate in the USDA School Lunch program, providing after school meals for students ages 1-18 from 3:30-5:30. They are reimbursed for this program and are hoping to expand it to include families. So far, they are providing for 58 children every day after school. There is a need for the municipal government to champion this program.
- A challenge is getting funds to farmers to create as much local food as possible. They were in the process of applying for a \$10,000 CSA grant when Covid entered the scene. They plan to renew the conversation.
- The UNM Social Book Club comes to cook each month.
- They've been asked to train first responders to cook for 100 people during fire events and other emergencies.
- They would like to have a mobile kitchen in the future.
- They are moving the school program to the armory to train more youth in cooking skills; i.e., the UNM Culinary Arts program.
- Amigos Locale serves the public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily except Sunday, and all proceeds support the kitchen and programming needs.
- They also own the Farmhouse Restaurant.
- They provide a Summer Food Program.
- A primary future goal is to involve youth in planting seeds for food production locally.